

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH HALL, WELLINGTON ON MONDAY 2 MARCH 2026 AT 6.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor J Lloyd (Chair),
Councillors J Cole, A Govier, M McGuffie, M Lithgow, S Mercer, S Pringle-Kosikowski, J Thorne, G Western, G Williams and K Wheatley

IN ATTENDANCE: David Farrow – CEO/Town Clerk
Wasif Choudhury – Democratic Services & Finance Officer
Sergeant Jon O'Connor, Wellington Community Policing Team (for minute 468)
1 member of the press
8 members of the public

463. WELCOME BY THE MAYOR

The Mayor opened the meeting and welcomed Councillor G Western to his first Full Council meeting.

464. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO APPROVE REASONS GIVE

Apologies were received from Councillors C Booth, C Govier-Wiggins and C Penk.

465. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Council S Mercer noted that he is a member of the Protect Wellington organisation.

466. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on 2 February 2026.

467. QUESTION AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Three members of the public spoke about the Planning Application 43/24/0009 & 43/24/0010/LB (Item 7a). They noted that despite the amendments made to the previous application in relation to splitting traffic, increased congestion will still be a massive issue for the residents of Courtland Road as it is a heavily used route by staff and students of Beech Grove and Court Fields School as well as people heading to Wellington Park. They noted that access to the site will be dangerous and would result in damage to the hedgerow. Street lighting is poor. They also noted that this development will have major implications of enjoyment of the Wellington Park with the noise and dust that will happen as a result of the two-year building process. The same would apply to the residents of Court Drive. They are not opposed to the area being developed but the current plan of 28 homes is far too much and a more moderate development in touch with the local area would be more appropriate.

One member of the public request a start to the process of introducing resident permit parking in the town due to the influx of people that live outside of Wellington parking in spaces during the day which puts pressure on residents to find parking spaces. Councillor J Lloyd confirmed that Council Officers will investigate how to start this process.

468. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE LOCAL POLICING TEAM

Sgt O'Connor presented his report, which had been circulated prior to the meeting and was duly noted.

469. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The following planning applications were considered:

(a) Case reference: 43/24/0009 & 43/24/0010/LB

Proposal: Erection of 19 No. dwellings, demolition of buildings with alterations (with partial demolition) and conversion of Grade II listed building into 9 No. dwellings at The Court, Courtland Road, Wellington (resubmission of 43/23/0017LB)

After much discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to object to the development on the same grounds as the previous application with additional concerns raised regarding the lack of affordable housing and the importance of completing the conversion of Grade II listed building. Councillors welcomed the amendments to the application that split traffic access however they noted that this is too small a measure to properly address the congestion that would arise because of this development.

(b) Case reference: 43/26/0003

Proposal: Erection of 4 No. houses (and retention of existing dwelling) with associated access and landscaping works at 10 Farthings Pitts, Foxdown Hill, Wellington

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend approval of the application with the caveat that access and egress for the works should be from the A38 relief road.

470. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor provided an update on her activities which was noted.

471. SOMERSET COUNCIL / LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORK (LCN) UPDATE

Councillor A Govier noted that Somerset Council will set its precept budget later this week with an expected proposal for an increase in Council Tax by 4.99%. Somerset Council has noted the success of services provided at the Wellington Community Hospital and is looking to replicate this across other community hospitals in Somerset. He also noted that a successful Cradle to Career meeting took place recently, with over 80 participants representing different organisations and it was noted at this meeting that Wellington was the most advanced of the cradle to career schemes across Somerset with a specific acknowledgement of the involvement of the local council.

Councillor J Lloyd noted there will be a LCN Highways Working Group meeting on the 3 March and she will produce a report to be given next month.

472. TO RECEIVE THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT ON RECENT COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

The report from the Chief Executive was noted.

The Chief Executive stated that the new CCTV cameras for Town Centre have been installed.

The Chief Executive noted that there have been 26 requests for application packs for the recent Open Spaces vacancy. This reflects the good work and high reputation of the Open Spaces team and Council in general demonstrating that Wellington Town Council is a good place to come to work.

473. POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2026 were noted.

474. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The draft minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2026 were noted.

After much discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to approve adoption of the recommended Road/Traffic Management Changes process to be reviewed annually.

Councillors noted that ambitious thinking is required to make the roads within Wellington safer. It was confirmed that Council Officers would produce a report on the options for looking at wider traffic management issues in the town

475. UPDATE ON SUPPORT BEING OFFERED TO KDC/ONE SWALLOWFIELD EMPLOYEES

An update was provided by Councillor J Lloyd which was noted.

476. STANDING ORDERS:

It was **RESOLVED** to approve amendment to Standing Order 18 to ensure alignment with Financial Regulations.

477. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the appointment of Councillor G Western to the Environment Committee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 19:30.

STANDING DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of Somerset Council:

Councillor Andrew Govier

Councillor Ross Henley

Mayor

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Date.....